

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 /014 W
----- 074769
R 161128Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9976

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9548

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRA, IN
SUBJ: ARBITRATION DISPUTE

REF: STATE 120448

1. PLEASE PASS ON FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO BRIDGELAND.
2. FOLLOWING UP ON THE LANDE/BRIDGELAND TELCON OF LATE JUNE LANDE MET WITH P.J. FERNANDES, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS. THIS WAS FOLLOW UP AN EARLIER MEETING IN MAY. FERNANDES STATED THAT HE HAD CHECKED INTO THE SITUATION AND THAT HE BELIEVED THAT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WAS POSSIBLE. HE DID NOT OFFER ANY SPECIFICS AND LANDE LIMITED HIS COMMENTS TO THE RENEWED OFFER TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. DURING THE CONVERSATION IT WAS NOTED THAT THE PRESENT STATE OF EMERGENCY WHICH WOULD PREVENT ANY PRESS OR PARLIAMENTARY CRITICISM OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM.
3. IN EMBASSY VIEW, FERNANDES MEANS WHAT HE SAYS, I.E., HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. OBVIOUSLY THIS LEAVES UNKNOWN WHETHER THE TWO PARTIES COULD AGREE ON MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY TERMS. WE THINK IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE AT THIS PO SEAAAAA IF THE EMBASSY STAYED OUT OF THE MIDDLE AND THAT THE TWO PARTIES RESUMED THEIR DIALOGUE. PERHAPS THE FIRST STEP MIGHT BE FOR BRIDGELAND TO INSTRUCT HIS BOMBAY REPRESENTATIVE TO RESUME CONVERSA-
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TIONS WITH FCI. IF THIS DOES NOT PRODUCE ANY MOVEMENT

PLEASE LET US KNOW.
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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